Today's News - Monday, September 14, 2009

- ArcSpace brings us BIG's big win in Kazakhstan, and Corbu for kids.
- Mazria on an "obscure section in the climate bill" that already has "a truly effective answer to our energy and emissions problems."
- Dubai's new metro has all the bells and whistles (Wi-Fi anyone?), but is it chic enough for the sheiks?
- Move over Grimshaw and Stern: BMW gets into street furniture design with everything from bus shelters to bollards.
- Kamin and Ouroussoff offer fall previews: for Chicago architects, "some of last giants of the pre-recession building boom" are coming on line; and NYC construction boom "artifacts" leave one wondering "who will be living here in the grim times ahead."
- UNESCO's World Heritage Sites is a noble cause, but "few sites in the developing world comply with all UNESCO's rules."
- New Delhi lays down guidelines to preserve its Lutyens-designed heritage.
- The Department of Homeland Security's massive new HQ to inhabit a historic hospital campus.
- Kennicott bemoans the fact that it will probably be "closed to the public forever" (and could have been something else/better).
- Prince Charles's foundation now faces an official inquiry about whether it intervened in planning disputes.
- Stella's eligibility for Humboldt Forum project in Berlin called into question.
- Heneghan Peng beats out some very big names to design University of Greenwich architecture school.
- It's only taken 11 years, but Ferry Point Park in the Bronx finally moves ahead (proving sometimes the public sector can get things right).
- Plans to build Britain's tallest bridge move a step closer.
- A planned bridge over the Mosel river "could ruin Germany's cherished Mosel wine region."
- They could always turn the sour grapes into fuel for a new sustainable racing car that "runs on chocolate and wine waste."
- WWF Canada's new website The Living Planet City is a good start - but is it good enough?

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-- Competition winner: BIG: National Library, Astana, Kazakhstan
-- Book: "Le Corbusier in His Own Words" - An introduction for children by Antoine Vigne

Comment: Take the 2030 Challenge: As America mulls its urgent energy predicament, we're being seduced yet again by splashy, pseudo-energy solutions...while a truly effective answer to our energy and emissions problems is already on the table...real solution is Section 201 of the Waxman-Markey bill, which covers building energy codes — that's right, building codes. By Ed Mazria- The Architect's Newspaper

Sheik Chic: Dubai's New Metro Is Fit for a King, But Will Locals Ride It? It is the longest automated metro system in the world, complete with luxury compartments, Wi-Fi and air conditioning. But will Dubai succeed in luring sheiks out of their cars in an emirate where gasoline only costs 25 cents a liter? [slide show]- Der Spiegel (Germany)

BMW Group DesignworksUSA Takes Design Excellence to City Streets: Landscape Forms Metro40 collection of furnishing elements for urban transit...from bus shelters to bollards... [link to image]- Reuters

Fall architecture preview: Tall towers at center stage as the 'Year of Big' goes on...Are they good or just big? We'll see, as the some of last giants of the prerecession building boom come on line. By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith; Studio Gang; Gensler; Foster + Partners; Goettsch Partners; Solomon Cordwell Buenz; Lohan Anderson; John Ronan; Booth Hansen- Chicago Tribune

The New Season | Architecture: After a Frantic Pace for Building, a Nervous Pause: A construction boom has left artifacts from what already seems a bygone era. But what comes next? ...walking along Chelsea's quiet streets one wonders who will be living here in the grim times ahead. By Nicolai Ouroussoff -- Frank Gehry; Jean Nouvel; Anabelle Selldorf; Neil Denari; Hani Rashid/Lise Anne Couture/Asymptote [slide show]- New York Times

UNESCO and World Heritage Sites: The limits of soft cultural power: Guarding precious and vulnerable places is one of the better things the UN's cultural agency does — but it may topple over if it stretches too far..."UNESCO's cause is noble, but they have done too little to raise awareness of the destruction going on...The reality is that few sites in the developing world comply with all UNESCO's rules."- The Economist (UK)

Government moves to retain Lutyens heritage: In a major step to retain the heritage of the Edwin Lutyens-designed North and South Blocks in the heart of the capital...laid down guidelines for carrying out repairs on the imposing secretariat buildings.- Thaindian News (Thailand)

Perkins+Will, HDR, Goody Clancy to Consolidate Homeland Security HQ at St. Elizabeths Campus: Firms will be taking on the GSA's largest single American Recovery and Reinvestment Act/ARRA-funded project -- Thomas U. Walter (1855); Clark Design Build; HOK; WDG Architecture- AIArchitect

As the Feds Take Over, St. Elizabeths Hospital Moves Further Into Shadow: ...for the $3.4 billion headquarters of the Department of Homeland Security...the largest federal project built in the region since the Pentagon...closed forever to the public...St. Elizabeths could be something else. By Philip Kennicott -- National Trust for Historic

Preservation; Perkins+Will- Washington Post

Prince Charles's architecture body faces inquiry: Charity Commission is seeking answers from the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment about whether it had intervened in planning disputes...Hank Dittmar...denied it was acting in breach of charity law. By Robert Booth- Guardian (UK)

Berlin Royal Palace Contract for Franco Stella Is Ruled Void: The decision forces the ministry to review Stella's eligibility for the job...If he is proven to be ineligible, then it "goes without saying that the government would negotiate with other prize winners"...[for Humboldt Forum] -- Hans Kollhoff; iGerkan; Marg and Partner; Hilmer & Sattler und Albrecht- Bloomberg News

Heneghan Peng to design new Greenwich architecture school: Young practice has triumphed again in a major competition, beating the likes of David Chipperfield and Rafael Vinoly to design a £60 million new school of architecture for the University of Greenwich. -- Allies & Morrison; Bennetts Associates; Wilkinson Eyre; Schmidt Hammer Lassen- BD/Building Design (UK)

Parks on Par: Long-mired Throgs Neck park and public links [golf course] finally poised for completion: ...Ferry Point Park...Although public-private partnerships are often touted as a way to bring about better-designed public amenities, in this case the public sector fostered a more creative and financially viable approach. -- Thomas Balsley Associates; Karen Bausman + Associates [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Plan to build Britain's tallest bridge move a step closer: Sunderland City Council has agreed to progress Spence Associate's landmark road bridge scheme over the River Wear [image]- BD/Building Design (UK)

I'm Tasting Tar, Traffic Cones, Motor Oil ...: A planned bridge could ruin Germany's cherished Mosel wine region.- Slate

Race car built from carrots to hit Brands Hatch Race Circuit: Part-vegetable sustainable racing car runs on chocolate and wine waste [image]- Building (UK)

New Resource: The Living Planet City: ...WWF Canada's new website...Good start! But is it good enough? Maybe, maybe not...it's only a matter of taking a great idea to its full potential.- WorldChanging

WORDS THAT BUILD Tip #18: Introduce Words that "Float" into the Flow of Communications with Clients: Replace prescriptive words and phrases "etched in stone" with language reflecting a collaborative project in flux. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow

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